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Put a circle around June 5.

There ought to be an army of 10,000, 000 U. S. bond holders. Mobilize now.

Gov. Graham was close on the heels of Pres. Wilson in issuing registration day proclamation. The Vermont executive is nothing if not prompt.

A feeling of confidence comes over the American people when they learn that Maj. Gen. Pershing, a practical campaigner and not one of the easy-chair variety, is to be in command of the American land forces in France. Gen. Pershing has never been up against any such opposition as he will meet on the war front in France, but he has always proven himself adaptable to circumstances, which qualification gives encouragement to the belief that he will fit in well with the Franco-British-Belgian scheme of operations in the far-flung battle line from the North sea to the Swiss border.

We are informed by Capt. Barber of Headquarters company that Company C of the 1st Vermont Infantry, National Guard, is being largely recruited from Barre young men who are enlisting in that arm of the service in preference to being drafted into some department away from their acquaintances. Already nearly one-half of the enlisted strength of Company C is made up of Barre boys, which gives encouragement to the expectation that in time there will be such a preponderance of Barre men in the ranks that the company will be transferred to Barre, to be with Headquarters company. Young men in Barre and vicinity who are contemplating joining the National Guard should express their preference for Company C. There is still time before the draft machinery is put into operation.

The patriotic demonstration held in Barre Saturday was one of those events which are satisfying because they have no serious drawbacks calculated to detract from complete success. In point of size the demonstration was a record-breaker; the events, once under way, moved with clock-like precision; the speaking of the day was concise and eminently fitting; the spirit among all the participants and spectators was on common ground—a desire to show a feeling of loyalty to the government at Washington. From first to last, the day's observance was excellent. To the Barre people of Italian birth or antecedents who conceived the idea of the celebration and carried it through to a successful consummation the thanks of the entire community are due; and The Times, feeling that it voices the sentiment of the entire community, takes this opportunity to extend grateful appreciation. Well done!

SENDING THE REGULARS FIRST.

How much more reasonable it is to send professional soldiers to France at the outset rather than troops whose military service is merely an avocation rather than a vocation? The proposal advanced in some quarters that the regular army of the United States should be preceded by the National Guard of the various states seemed like a foolish maneuver, as well as a serious reflection on the regular army, whose whole training has been for war service. The troops of the regular army are in far more fit condition for service on the European battle fields, both physically and mentally, than are the members of the National Guard; and while we doubt not that the National Guard has the fighting spirit we do believe that they should be put through more rigorous training before they are permitted to leave the country. The regular army of the country now numbers something like 200,000 men—a small collection as compared with standing armies of European countries—and of that number at least one-half ought to be in shape for service abroad. Meanwhile the National Guard units are largely made up of raw recruits just from benches, stores, banks and countless other civilian posts of duty and hardly having had a taste of military life. Without these recruits the National Guard would have been incomplete units. It would have been extremely unwise to send the National Guard abroad at this time, ahead of the regular army. The regulars will make a good nucleus around which to build the formidable army which is expected to put the finishing touches to kaiserism.

CONSCRIPTION IS ON.

The law of conscription, or draft, is on the country. The act of President Wilson Friday night in signing the enactment of Congress was followed promptly by his proclamation setting apart Tuesday, June 5, as the day for registration of all those eligible for national service under the provisions of the act, and the president's proclamation was, in turn, followed by the official act of Governor Graham of Vermont in confirming the date. President Wilson's proclamation was printed in full in Saturday's paper, and Governor Graham's document appears in another column in to-day's paper. Both are to be studied carefully, not alone by the men eligible for registration but also by all people. In par-

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ticular do we desire to call attention of all our readers to the official statement by President Wilson. As the executive well stated, June 5, 1917, is to become a momentous day in the history of the United States because it inaugurates a new era in our national life. It is the day set apart on which "the manhood of the country shall step forward in one solid rank in defense of the ideals to which this nation is consecrated."

On that day all males between the ages of 21 and 30, both inclusive, are required to present themselves for registration in each community in much the same manner as the voters present themselves at elections, with this difference, however, that men eligible to registration are compelled to register, whereas voters exercise their prerogative or not, as they see fit. To those who may be reluctant to give that service which all their fellows are giving, it needs only to be said that there is a heavy penalty, supplemented by the imposition of the draft, upon all who refuse. Not all who are thus forced to register will be called upon to bear arms but all will go through the process of selective conscription to determine which are best fitted for carrying the guns and which for prosecuting work at home in furtherance of the national welfare. From time to time we shall print such articles as may bear on the features of registration day in order to give as much information as possible prior to June 5.

Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

The organization and management of farmers' mutual fire insurance companies is discussed in detail in a new publication of the U. S. department of agriculture, bulletin No. 230. These companies, it is said, represent one of the most successful forms of rural co-operation in the United States. Nearly 2,000 of them are in existence and the total amount of insurance they have outstanding exceeds \$4 billion dollars. In some states of the middle west, fully three-quarters of all the insurable farm property is insured in companies managed by the farmers themselves, and organizations of this character exist in every state except in Florida, Mississippi, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona and Nevada. The increasing number and size of these companies make it important that they should be founded on sound principles. The bulletin already mentioned takes up the problems that are likely to arise and discusses them fully. In addition, suggestive articles of incorporation and by-laws are contained in the appendix, together with forms of application and policy blanks.

Subscriptions received for Liberty loan at People's National Bank.

CURRENT COMMENT

How Ford Was Fooled.

Lamar's revelations bring to light many missing bits of the puzzle as to what really went on in 1915. He told the other day of the way in which men now charged as his accomplices or Rintelen's gaudy ear of the wealthy and once ingenious magnate who shares his name with the prevailing make of motor car. As a man of open mind, Henry Ford was intellectually accessible to trespassers, nuisances and impostors. The hospitality of that open, not to say unguarded, mind of his was abused by as genuine a set of scoundrels as ever clutched a reichsmark, if the Lamar testimony be true. This explanation suits us, for it puts Mr. Ford in the light of one rather sinned against than sinning. Unless influenced by shrewd and magnetic schemers, he would never have departed so far from his natural benevolence as to give even indirect help to the German cause. Since he has been deceived Mr. Ford has behaved handsomely, and like a patriot. We think no better of his wits, but do homage to the force of character by which he bears the burden of his acknowledged mistake with dignity.—New York Evening Sun.

The British Women's Triumph.

The British government has been won to woman suffrage. Cabinet bill which includes the enfranchisement of women at the age of 30 has been introduced into the House of Commons.

What parades, agitation, violence and resistance to forcible feeding failed to gain whole-hearted service on the part of the women during a great crisis has secured.

The women threw themselves passionately into war work from the very start. By the thousands they gave their energy in nursing the wounded. As more men were needed for the ranks the women took up the task of recruiting. When industry lacked male workers, the women entered the munition factories. Today the output of shells and great guns could not be maintained except for the skilled female mechanics who have learned their trade since the war began. The attempt of German frightfulness to starve the British Isles has drawn women to the land. They drive tractors, plant and cultivate in a heroic endeavor to save their country from famine.

The former opponents of votes for women have come to see that without the help of women the war could not be fought with any hope of success. The women of Britain, having helped to save the nation, have earned the right to help in its government.—Boston Globe.

The Unbuilt Ships.

The chairman of the shipping board continues to make announcements of the great things the board is about to do, but what has it done, and what is it doing? If the board will not tell or cannot tell of anything accomplished, United States senators might inform the country what the board is doing in their respective states. There is no satisfaction in the mere description of a vast and costly program with a promise of fulfillment in 18 months. Enough has been heard of the plans; something should be heard of the actual work.

Washington is a state having a number of large shipyards, and many a good ship has come out of Puget sound. Senator Poindexter spoke for it in the Senate on Wednesday, and this is what he said:

"Out in my country we've got ship-builders ready, and we've got the materials to build the ships. But the shipping board has not let one contract for ships. Up to a few days ago, they did not even know what character of ships they wanted."

Were other senators to speak out, they might tell similar stories. The board's delay in getting to work seems inexorable. Not till May 13 was the board able to announce the signing of the first contract under its billion-dollar building program, a contract with the Los Angeles Shipbuilding company for eight steel ships, to be delivered next year. That sort of thing does nothing to supply the immediate need. If the board had set to work at the right time with its pet plan of wooden shipbuilding it might have had ships now leaving the ways. As things are, we must take the new British tonnage as fast as it is completed in our yards, and repair as quickly as we can the German and Austrian steamers that were seized in our harbors, and try to get along with these vessels until the slow shipping board can find its mind and apply it to matter. The German submarines are at work to-day and every day; the huge merchant fleet which was to battle them is not out of the draftsmen's hands.—Boston Herald.

Wood dresses at one-fourth cut price at Abbott's.

How the Farm Was Saved

By RUTH GRAHAM

David Torbert was following the plow on his father's farm. He was driving near the fence, on the other side of which was a road. Along the road came a girl. David stopped the horses for a talk with her.

"Find it hard work, David?" she asked.

"Yes, but I wouldn't mind the work if there was any pay in it. Dad's been workin' this farm nigh on to ten years, and he hasn't as much money in bank by a good sight as he had when he commenced."

The girl leaned her arms on the fence and thought.

"Farming has changed, David," she said. "The farmer of the past worked solely on the narrow experience he could get from observation. Nowadays they train young men at agricultural colleges to be farmers."

"I don't think much of book learning farming," replied David dubiously.

"I have no doubt that practice must go with the book learning," said the girl. "But I hear that in the colleges they require both. I have an idea that if there's anything to be learned the best way is to learn it. If it doesn't turn out valuable you can't help it. But I don't believe they would give young men an education that isn't worth anything. Besides, there are a great many ways of getting the product out of the ground. These graduates of agricultural colleges are taught a good many specialties. There are fruits of many different kinds, there are flowers, and there are cereals. It seems to me that if a young man knew a lot about any one of these he might make money working it."

"I don't think dad can afford to send me to college."

"Ask him."

That evening David asked his father if he could afford to send him to an agricultural college. His father promised to take the matter under consideration and the next day informed his delighted son that he could stop work and begin the necessary preparation.

Four years later David returned to find his father dead and an inheritance of a farm that was mortgaged for all it was worth. The young man was advised to let the farm go for the mortgage and not waste his energies trying to pay off the latter.

"No," said David. "Father sent me to college to learn how to get money out of the soil. If I hadn't this farm I couldn't put to practice what I have learned. I am going to work right here."

David planted his farm with apple trees. He had to wait a long time for a return, but he knew just what the trees needed to make them grow, and he bought the fertilizing material on credit. While he was waiting for apples he was one day concluded to go over his father's papers and get rid of those that were now of no value. Running over his father's check books, he saw certain deposits entered, "Mary Summers." David was surprised. What could Mary Summers be doing paying his father money? He noticed that whenever a check came in from Mary Summers a check was drawn to David Torbert for the same amount. It did not require a bright mind to see that Mary had been putting him through college.

He had visited her since his return as he would visit any other girl. The finding of the checks made a change in his feelings. He now went to see her oftener. He said nothing about his discovery, but his manner toward her changed. Then one day when he got his first apples off his trees he sent them to her, reminding her that it was she who had suggested that he go to college. When he went to see her again she looked very happy. After that David went to see her often and never failed to tell her of his hopes with regard to his crops of apples. Then one day after an unusual large crop had been sold he went to her, informed her that he had paid off the mortgage on his farm and had a couple of thousand dollars ahead. He reminded her that his present happy condition was due to her and he would be far happier if she would become his helpmeet.

Mary was delighted. She had seen no sign that he knew that she had furnished the means to put him through college and did not believe he had been so informed.

David and Mary were married, and

while David nursed his trees Mary nursed babies. David never said a word to her about being indebted to her for the wherewithal to attain his success.

Mary never said anything to David about the matter, for she thought it better that he should remain in ignorance of it. So they both lived on, Mary not knowing that David knew her secret and thinking that he had come to love her for other reasons.

Meanwhile David continued to raise bigger and better apples, and when his own trees did not need his attention he gave his services to those who wanted them for a handsome consideration.

One day David handed his wife a check for a considerable amount of money.

"What is this for?" she asked. "Sweetheart," he said, "it is the amount of my college tuition with interest."

"Then you know?" she asked, surprised.

"I have known ever since I finished my course in college."

THE SHORT STORY.

Its Chief Failing as Seen by a Somewhat Cynical Critic.

The short story, taken in the aggregate, is a collection of 6,000 words that tell how the hero happened to marry the girl. It seldom mentions the enormous number of girls that the hero has kissed prior to the affair in hand, nor does it bear heavily on the previous little love affairs of the heroine. The chief trouble with the short story is that it fills the reading public with the idea that to be happy one needs only to be married.

This idea is erroneous, for the success of a courtship depends not on the marriage, but on the manner in which the contracting parties readjust their ideas and peculiarities in order that there may not be a wholesale interference of ideas and peculiarities and a consequent stripping of mental gears and wrecking of hopes.

Every short story should have footnotes attached explaining the status quo of the hero and heroine at the end of five years, together with the condensed but honest reason for the unsatisfactory or satisfactory results.—Pack.

THREE WINGED WORDS.

How the Famous Expression "Swat the Fly!" Originated.

Once upon a time there was a man with a large assortment of ideas, and he went to a baseball game to find surcease from thought in the crack of the bat and the long hit. Now, the particular idea that had been buzzing the loudest in his head at that time was the common housefly and how to make it uncommon.

He never could look at a fly without feeling a cruel desire to squash it. He was, in fact, about to publish a health bulletin indicting the fly on more counts than the fly has eyes, and it has several thousand and fifty. Well, when he got to the game and had just rid himself of the whole notion for a moment and was eagerly awaiting action on the part of the batsman somebody—in fact, a lot of them—shouted, "Swat the ball!"

The batsman did. He swatted the prettiest fly any fan would ask to see. And then while the crowd roared the fly hater took out a pencil and scribbled on a bit of paper those three winged words that were destined in the months that followed to fly around the world and back again, "Swat the fly."

The man was Dr. S. J. Crumline of Kansas.—J. Wainwright Evans in Nation's Business.

Marriage in Argentina.

In the Argentine republic if a man engaged to marry hesitates beyond a reasonable time in leading his fiancée to the altar he is heavily fined, and if a resident of the republic should fail to marry he is taxed until he reaches the age of eighty.

The Giraffe's Neck.

"Why does the giraffe have such a long neck?" asks the teacher. "Because its head is so far away from its body," hopefully answers the boy.

Splash.

Maiden—What's that "trough of the sea" we read about? Corney—Oh, that is what the ocean greyhounds drink out of.—Cassell's Journal.

Might Have Been Worse.

"Did the play have a happy ending?" "It might have been worse. My wife only forgot her handkerchief and one glove."

Where's Your Money?

Some put their money in houses and lots; A habit that's commendable. Some in stockings, or old tea-pots; It's dangerous, but amendable. Just gather your savings from teapots and socks, As I do with my money lendable, And keep it in a Savings Account, In a Bank you know is dependable.

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